

Superannuated Teachers of Ontario

District 16 City of Toronto

President:

Mike Lennox

Editor:

Phil Hornick

Newsletter

January, 1988

President's Message

"ONE HAND FOR THE MAST AND ONE HAND FOR YOURSELF"

Before the era of steam, three-masted ships plied the waters of the world. One of the most perilous jobs a seaman had to face was that of scaling the rigging of the huge masts. There, high above the deck and chill waters, he had to carry out certain tasks. Sailors were constantly reminded by their supervisors and mates of the caution, "ONE HAND FOR THE MAST AND ONE HAND FOR YOURSELF". This was a reminder that as well as looking out for the ship's welfare, he was to look out for his own welfare.

What am I driving at? Simply this: There are people who constantly look inward, concerned only with themselves, whether it be their economic, physical, social, or emotional welfare. At the other extreme, are those who care more about the welfare of others than they do about themselves.

I used this analogy when District 16 presented the Norton C. Heard Memorial Trophy to Brock Public School, on the occasion of the School's 100th Anniversary celebration. Nort's work on behalf of others not only earned him the respect and love of his peers, but also contributed significantly to the quality of life he enjoyed.

Since my election to the Presidency of District 16, a number of members have played a prominent role at the Provincial level of STO. These include Al Robb (1st Vice President), Mary Thomas (Chairman of the Public Relations Committee), Bernice McGinn (a member of the Newsletter Committee), and Bill Quinn, who organized the massive mailing campaign to non-members who are in our Health Plans. In addition, Mary Thomas also heads up the "best-five" campaign for District 16, assisted by Wilson Brooks, Fred Yeomans, Betty Chandorkar, Fred Melhuish, Jim Youngson, and Jim Williamson.

Here are ways individual members can make STO, and specifically District 16, stronger: Encourage others to join STO, play an active role by joining the Executive, or work on one of the many Committees either locally or provincially.

I hope that you and yours had a Merry Christmas, and that you will enjoy a happy and healthy 1988.

Lang May Your Lum Reek,
Your Fellow Gerontor,
Mike Lennox.

TO START US OFF

- o It's only early January, but already we seem to be rushing the seasons: Valentine displays are showing up in the stores, the Nurseries are sending out their seed catalogues, Fall fashions are being advertised, sports' writers are talking baseball, and Income Tax Forms are beginning to arrive. So, what else is new?
- o Well, it's now been ruled that we can't deduct our STO fees from our Income Tax. Have you been doing that? And this is the Year I had planned to deduct mine. But no such luck! And to help us remember, the Commission will no longer show these fees on our T4A slips. Just leave it to Revenue Canada to find things out! Did someone tip them off, or ask too many questions? But as my Accountant/Psychiatrist said, "You have to take things as they are, bare your soul, tell it as it is, and not hold anything back." Some consolation. And he charged me for that advice.
- o The political campaign on "recalculation" is still with us, but there is little new to report. It seems that we must still chip away at the rocks. Have you contacted your MPP? This is important if your MPP is new on the job. And if not new, a "reminder" might well be in order. My MPP seems to have a short memory, or is just confused about the whole thing. Are there any more MPP's in the same state of confusion?
- o The discussion re the Fee Increase took a "rough ride" at the November Senate, before an increase of 25¢ per \$1000 of pension was finally approved. Suggestions moved from "no increase" up to 50¢ per \$1000., and many cost-cutting measures were proposed. One cost-cutting measure called for the elimination of FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS. However, District 16 opposed this, and won a great deal of support. After all, FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS grew out of a demand from the membership for better, and more immediate coverage of each Senate meeting, and this demand has more than been fulfilled, thanks to Mary Thomas. We can't depend on District Newsletters, as not all District send out Newsletters, and some Districts only publish once or twice a year. Even the STO NEWSLETTER, which comes out three times a year is not "immediate" enough for us.
- o The ruling by the Superintendent of Insurance that all participants in our Health Plan must also be members of STO came as a surprise to many retirees. There have been complaints that this ruling smacks of "mandatory membership in STO". However, the provision for opting out of the Health Plan, and not belonging to STO tends to rule out the "mandatory" membership.

But why shouldn't we expect all participants in the Health Plan to belong to STO? After all, STO is putting out money to administer the Plan (\$12,000 has been budgeted for 1987-88) and we should not be expected to carry participants who are not members. And, for that matter, why aren't all Superannuates members of STO? We're not such a bad group, and we have worked hard to bring about improved pensions and benefits for all retirees, and not just our members!

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DISTRICT NOTES

- * Our General Meeting last October was a good one, with the highlight being the address by Lou Wise, the Guest Speaker. His presentation was well received, with one member referring to it as "...most fascinating...with slides about clouds...and spectacular shots of light and shadow as the sun broke through in various angles..."
- * No firm decision was reached relative to a change from the Annual Breakfast to a Luncheon. However, if you have any firm ideas on the matter, contact Mike Lennox, or any member of the Executive. In the meantime, plan to attend this year's Breakfast, which will take place on Thursday, May 12, at the Royal York Hotel. Details will be forthcoming in our next Newsletter, although at this time of writing, it appears that we will be having a music presentation, instead of a Guest Speaker.
- * Plans have been finalized for our next General Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, February 17, with Mike Filey as Guest Speaker. Most of you will know Mr. Filey from his interesting stories on the history of Toronto during the Sesqui-Centennial Year.
- * At the invitation of STO, District 16 "hosted" the Wine and Cheese Reception (at no cost to us) for the Senators and Observers prior to the November Senate. It was a gala affair, and our thanks go to Margaret Smith, Anne Fraser, Bernice McGinn, and George Hayes who organized and arranged the evening.
- * Our congratulations go to Mary Thomas for another excellent job in co-writing FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS.
- * Several people have commented on the "outstanding leadership shown by Mary Thomas and Al Robb throughout the Senate Meeting."
- * Our Good Will Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Patterson, serves as an important link between District 16 and our members who are ill, bereaved, "shut-in", or in need of assistance. If you know of any member who should receive a card, visit, phone call, or some other consideration, please contact Elizabeth, or any member of her Committee.
- * When Doug Sparks pointed out "that Club 16 was now in drive", he wasn't fooling. Already, many fine programs and activities have been completed, and others are on the way. Just read their very fine Bulletins. Remember, as a member of District 16, you are also a member of Club 16.
- * You are reminded that your \$5.00 fee for District 16 is now due, and, if you have not already done so, please send your cheque to Mary Moore, 4000 Yonge Street, Apt. 233, Toronto, M4N 2N9.
- * Have you moved, or are you getting ready to move? Make sure that we have your new address and telephone number. Just call Mary Moore at 488-5491.
- * At the presentation of the Nort. Heard Memorial Trophy, our District was represented by Mike Lennox, Wilson Brooks, Bernice McGinn, and Al Robb.

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DISTRICT NOTES (Continued)

- * If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding our Health Plans, contact Bill Quinn at 444-2339. Bill would like to hear from you.
- * Mary Moore (Membership), Sid Coles (Recruiting), and Wilson Brooks (Member at Large) have been doing an excellent job of bringing new members into STO and District 16.
- * The Slate of Officers, readily accepted at the October Meeting, continues to present a formidable, hard-working team, already putting forth its efforts on our behalf. Just look at the line-up:

District 16 Executive: 1987-88

Officers

Past Pres:	Margaret Smith	Record. Sec'y:	Cecilia Dineen
President:	Mike Lennox	Corres. Sec'y:	June Assad
1st Vice Pres:	Bernie McGinn	Treasurer:	Don Cooper
2nd Vice Pres:	George Hayes	Club 16 Pres:	Doug Sparks
3rd Vice Pres:	Jean McCaig		

Executive Members

Membership:	Mary Moore	Health Insur:	Bill Quinn
Hospitality:	Anne Fraser	Newsletters:	Phil Hornick
Recruitment:	Sid Coles	Member at Large:	Mary Thomas
Mailing:	Bill Ketcheson	"	Wilson Brooks
Good Will:	Elizabeth Patterson	"	Charlotte Hardie
		"	Is Gang (Treas. Club 16)

Al Robb, 1st Vice President of STO, is an Executive Member in an "ex officio" capacity.

- * Our thanks and appreciation go to Jean Watson and Bill Whitehouse, who have "retired" after many years of good and faithful service, Jean as President of Club 16, and Bill as Treasurer of District 16. Best wishes and good luck!
- * The "massive mailing campaign" referred to in the President's Letter, involved the sending of letters to some 5600 participants in our Health Plan who are not members of STO, informing them of the new policy, and urging them to join STO. Bill was assisted by over 20 members from District 16, and several from surrounding areas. Our members were recruited through Lillian Gang's insert in the Club 16 Bulletin, and through the efforts of Bill Ketcheson, our "Mailing Convener".

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DISTRICT NOTES (Continued)

The following members from District 16 worked on the mailing: Bill Ketcheson, Bernice McGinn, Mike Lennox, Bill Noble, Al Robb, Mary Thomas, Lillial and Is Gang, Lee and Ron Mackie, Mary Thomas, Teresa Bell, Clare Perry, Alf Piper, Dorell Cameron, Jim Davies, Gwen Ashburn, Eleanor Baird, George Hayes, Harry Mann, Ruth Quinn, Cecilia Dineen, Cathy MacPherson, Jim Harvey, Jean Eccles, and Doug Sparks.

This group also assisted in the sending of letters to some 1000 Associate Members of STO, reminding them to send their fees for 1988 to the STO Office.

- * In order to get the names of the 5600 participants in our Health Plan who are not members of STO, John Kippen (District 34), with the help of Bill Quinn, checked the computer entries of the 20,000 participants in the Health Plan.

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<u>GENERAL MEETING</u>	
<u>Date:</u>	Wednesday, February 17, 1988
<u>Time:</u>	1:30 p.m. (Coffee at 1:00 p.m.)
<u>Place:</u>	Education Centre Conference Room 155 College Street, Corner McCaul
<u>Speaker:</u>	Mr. Mike Filey

MEET YOUR PRESIDENT

Mike Lennox was born in Scotland, but received his education in Toronto. During his teens he worked as a fruit clerk in Loblaw's (with an interruption for War Service), until he was lured into teaching by the thoughts of high salaries, security, and good superannuation benefits.

After joining the Toronto Board of Education as a teacher, Mike moved through the ranks, retiring as Superintendent of Special Services. (It must be noted that several of his positions of responsibility disappeared he completed his term of office). As he needed more schooling for his various positions, the Board sent him to the Institute of Child Study, and later, to broaden his horizons, sent him to Russia to study their system of Education.

Mike has continued to be busy in his retirement. He has already graduated from a course in Gerontology at Ryerson, as well as teaching in the program for three years. In addition, he has

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MEET YOUR PRESIDENT (Continued)

been on the Executive Board, and in some cases Chairman, of many Associations, including the Volunteer Centre of Metro Toronto, the Human Resources Committee, the Task Force on Advisory Committees, the Management Team of the Volunteer Services Lung Association, T.E.O.F., Friends of the Archives of the Toronto Board of Education, and the Fitness Club of the Etobicoke Olympiad. He also is the co-ordinator of the retired Principals and Superintendents of the Toronto Board.

His hobbies are many. Currently, he is researching a book on School Law, and writing the "odd" report for the Toronto Board. He has taken cooking courses, and specializes in 20-day wines, 9-day pickles, and 15-minute chili sauce, saying, "I want to be around to enjoy them."

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

- * By the Canadian Cancer Society, to speak to elementary school children on the dangers of smoking, and to also serve as members of a Speakers' Bureau. Training is provided. Contact Jack Shelton at 282-7136, or Metro District Education Division, 593-1513.
- * By the Clifton Youth Services' Volunteer Division, to tutor boys in their care, who are having difficulties with school work. Contact Ms. Margaret Bridger, at 463-1191, during office hours.
- * By the Volunteer Centre of Metropolitan Toronto, to work three hours a week in elementary schools, taking part in arts and crafts, helping students who have poor English Language Skills, providing enrichment for bright students, listening to a child read, etc. Contact the Centre at 961-6888 (Toronto/York), 621-9936 (Etobicoke), or 264-2308 (Scarboro/East York) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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MEMORABILIA WANTED

Deer Park Public School is anxious to borrow memorabilia for its 100th Anniversary Celebration during the week of May 1. If you have any photos or objects which you can loan to the school, or any special memories which could be included in their Centennial Book, please contact the School at 393-1550.

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IN MEMORIAM

Reginald Canning
 James Medcof
 M. Evelyn Mathews
 Charles F. Chambers
 GRACE COOK

Mary Blessinger
 Clarence Brennand
 Lou Perrin
 Marjorie Hughes
 KLEANDER HENRY

William T. Medcof
 Clarke Rawson
 Ida M. Dean
 KATHLEEN JOHNSTON